

# Graco Recalls 3.7 Million Child Car Seats at Request of NHTSA

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Graco Children's Products Inc., have announced a recall of nearly 3.8 million car seats because their harness buckles can become stuck in the closed position with the child in the seat. This effort is the fourth-largest recall of these products ever. **This recall is specific to the 5 point harness car seats listed below.**

Graco is recalling 11 of 18 car seat models that the (NHTSA) says should have their buckling mechanism replaced. The recall is caused by a defect in the latches used by the company from 2009 to 2013. Customer complaints indicated the harness had to be cut to remove their child from the seat. The NHTSA stated: "It may be difficult to remove the child from the restraint, increasing the risk of injury in the event of a vehicle crash, fire, or other emergency, in which a prompt exit from the vehicle is required." The seat models included in the recall are as follows:

- Cozy Cline
- Comfort Sport
- Classic Ride 50
- My Ride 65
- My Ride with Safety Surround
- My Ride 70
- Size 4 Me 70
- Smartseat
- Nautilus
- Nautilus Elite
- Argos 70

Graco stopped using its "proprietary latch" last May and switched to another supplier. The new supplier's harness buckle will replace the recalled seats. See pictures of the recalled buckles and the new buckles below:



The Signature and the QT buckles on Convertible and Harness Booster car seats are the only buckles affected by this recall. **If your car seat DOES NOT have a square red button, your car seat will need the new replacement buckle offered through this recall.**

Graco offers a new replacement harness buckle to affected consumers at no cost.

- **If you have registered your car seat with Graco, you will automatically receive a Consumer Notification Letter with instructions on how to order a buckle repair kit.**
- If you have not registered your car seat, you can use this link to order your replacement <http://www.pages02.net/newellrubbermaid/buckle2014recall>, or
- If you need more help, contact the Graco customer service team at 800-345-4109 (Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) or [www.consumerservices@gracobaby.com](mailto:www.consumerservices@gracobaby.com).

You may continue using your car seat until your buckle repair kit arrives. To reduce the chance of difficulty unlatching the buckle while you are waiting to receive your buckle repair kit, users should clean their buckles according to the following instructions.

**Cleaning Tips for Harness Buckles:**

- To clean your buckle, turn the restraint over and push the retainer through the harness strap slot. Place the buckle in a cup of warm water and gently agitate the buckle, pressing the red button several times while it is in the water.
- Do not submerge the harness webbing and do not use soaps or lubricants, only rinse the harness buckle with warm water.
- Shake out the excess water and allow the harness buckle to air dry.
- Reattach the harness buckle into the same slot and re-check harness for correct installation according to the car seat manual before use.